REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-5, 7-8, 10-14, and 17-18 are pending. Claims 21-25 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Also, claims 6, 15, 16, 19, and 20 were previously canceled.

The final Office Action mailed September 25, 2003 rejected all claims as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on *Rangachar* (USP5,495,521) alone and in view of *McConnell* (USP 5,436,957).

Basically, Applicants understand and appreciate the arguments proffered by the Examiner, except, however, the conclusion of obviousness. The problem in not reaching an agreement on obviousness appears to be a matter of interpreting the claim language, not in interpreting the prior art. As the Examiner is aware, claim elements after being given their ordinary meaning are further interpreted according: (1) to the Specification (reviewed below); and (2) the prosecution history (arguments and amendments presented here and prior to the present response).

THE PRESENT INVENTION SPECIFICATION

With reference to Fig. 1, prior art, and Fig. 2 the Applicants discussion of a known hacking using the prior art of Fig. 1:

> "the LEC checks to see if the originating ... ANI is blocked from calling the particular "800" number" (page 2, lines 26–28) "when a hacker attempts the fraudulent scheme detailed above, she/he usually does not know the correct trunk access code for the PBX 250, so she/he repeatedly dials into the PBX 250 trying different digit combinations in order to get to the outside trunk line. Most fraud control works by setting threshold values for such behavior: if there are more than a certain number of calls from a particular ANI to a particular "800" number in a short period of time, an alert is generated ... to block future calls from that ANI to the "800" number ..." (page 5, line 22 to page 6, line 1). "Either an LEC or an IXC may discover

fraudulent behavior ... the information is forwarded to the Bellcore SMS 100 (see FIG. 1). However, it ... may take additional time for the information to filter down to the LEC ... The time difference between discovering fraudulent behavior and registering a blocked ANI can allow a hacker to successfully continue her/his activities." (page 6, lines 6–14)

"One problem with this system is that the LEC is the guardian of the "800" gateway ... the IXC network 30 merely routes the call and tracks billing information. ... This means that while the fraudulent originating ANIs are going through the stages of the reporting system, more calls may be made from that originating ANI to the particular "800" number." (page 6, lines 16-24)

"Therefore, a need exists for a system and method for preventing fraudulent special services calls more quickly and efficiently ... without waiting for blocked originating ANI/"800" number combinations to be reported to the LEC." (page 6, lines 25-29)

And, the solution is:

"In short, the preferred embodiment adds additional fields to the ISC SMS database so that particular originating ANIs are blocked from calling particular "800" numbers." (page 8, lines 15–17) "When the hacker attempts the forty-first call, the IXC Switch 31 contacts SSCP 41 for routing information ... queries the IXC SMS database. The IXC SMS reports that that particular originating ANI is blocked ..." (page 9, lines 18-21)

"In the prior art, the fraudulent ANI would need to be reported to the Bellcore SMS 100, which would report it to the LEC 20. This could take a long enough period of time that the hacker might discover the outside trunk line access code before the LEC 20 blocks ..." (page 9, lines 25-28)

CLAIM 1 ELEMENTS:

"a special service call" (preamble)
"storing an originating phone number associated with the call in a
    database within an interexchange carrier network" (paragraph 2)

The last paragraph of claim 1 makes it clear that the storing in the IXC is to be

distinguished from the inherently delayed storing in the LEC. The claim term "associated" is

used with regard to a database: "associative storage that is accessed by comparing the content of

the·data stored in it rather than by addressing predetermined locations." (The Computer

Glossary, ninth edition, 2001, Alan Freedman, AMACOM); and "A memory-based storage

method in which data items are accessed not on the basis of a fixed address or location but by

analysis of their content. *Also called* content-addressed storage." (Microsoft Computer

Dictionary, Fourth Edition, 1999 by Microsoft Corporation) As claimed, the special service call

is associatively stored with the originating phone number.

Claim 10 has the similar claim elements for a system claim, namely:

> "a database for maintaining a record associated with a special service
> call number; means for entering an originating phone number into the
> record"

Note the use of "the", "a" and "an" which make it clear that in each record format, the

originating phone number that is identified as suspicious is the one that is associated with the

particular special service call number.

Claims 21 - 25 have been canceled to expedite prosecution and reduce issues for Appeal.

ARGUMENT

Wherever the CS1 of *Rangachar* is, in an LEC, in an IXC, distributed between an IXC

and LEC or in/distributed within a single company having portions that function as the IXC and

the LEC, there is no reason, other than hindsight, to interpret Rangachar as having associative

storage, particularly in the IXC portion.

Of course, *Rangachar* has or is usable with an IXC, because it speaks of long distance

calls and the CS1 would have some kind of storage, however temporary, but there is no

indication that the *Rangachar* CS1 storage would be associative rather than the usual address

retrieved storage. In fact, Fig. 2 of *Rangachar* has an output of the CS1 that is an ALERT

REPORT. The *Rangachar* alert report is responded to and may result in an instruction to the

"signal transfer points STP1 and STP2 to hold that information in a network control point NCP which handles the call processing of service calls. The latter then blocks succeeding calls from the same caller for a specific time." (*Rangachar,* column 6, lines 4-8*)*

The above quoted features of claim one are steps that start after such an alert, that is "if the call is suspicious" (claim 1, first paragraph). Thus it is clear the *Rangachar* CS1 does not meet the claim feature, regardless of where the CS1 is located.

While there is some storage in the *Rangachar* NTP ("to hold that information"), it "then blocks succeeding calls from the same caller for a specific time." Thus, the period of time for holding is only with respect to the originating caller for all calls and has nothing specific to do with the same service call that created the alert, so there is no reason for the *Rangachar* NTP to associatively store with respect to the "special service call" (claim 1, preamble that is the antecedent for the "call" of paragraph 1). Therefore, the *Rangachar* NTP has no associative storage as claimed ("storing an originating phone number associated with the call", claim 1, paragraph 1).
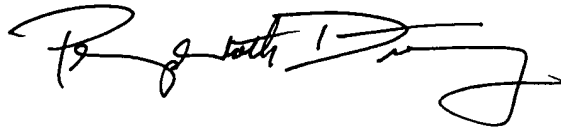
McConnell does not overcome the deficiencies of *Rangachar.*

A review of the dependant claims as set forth to date in the prosecution will not be repeated in view of the late stage of prosecution and to be concise as to the main issues of the independent claims.

    ·   Therefore, the present application, as amended and argued, overcomes the rejections of record and is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. If any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at (703) 425-8508 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

DITTHAVONG & CARLSON, P.C.

11/25/03

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